A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL ARTISANS DEVELOPMENT CENTRES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARTISANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY; AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

Sponsored by Senator Stella Oduah

] Commencement

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ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria as follows:

| 1 | 1(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the | Establishment of | | |
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| 2 | Artisans Development Centre (in this Act referred to as "the Centre"). | Artisans Development Centre | | |
| 3 | (2) The Centre shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession | Centre | | |
| 4 | and a common seal; | | | |
| 5 | (3) May sue and be sued in its corporate name. | | | |
| 6 | (4) May hold and dispose of property whether movable or | | | |
| 7 | immovable. | | | |
| 8 | 2(1) There is established for the Centre a Management Board (in | Establishment | | |
| 9 | this Act referred to as the Board), which shall be responsible for the overall | and Composition of Management Board | | |
| 10 | administration of the Centre. | | | |
| 11 | (2) The Board shall consist of the following: | | | |
| 12 | (a) a Chairman; | | | |
| 13 | (b) a representative of the National Directorate of Employment; | | | |
| 14 | (c) a representative each of the: | | | |
| 15 | (i) Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity, | | | |
| 16 | (ii) Federal Ministry of Finance, | | | |
| 17 | (iii) Minister of Sports and Youth Developments, | | | |
| 18 | (iv) Federal Ministry of Education; | | | |
| 19 | (d) two other persons one of which shall be a woman; and | | | |
| 20 | (e) the Executive Secretary. | | | |

| C 2556 | | Artisans Development Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2016 2016 | | |
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| | 1 | (3) Members of the Board shall be appointed by the President subject | | |
| | 2 | to the confirmation of the Senate and shall be persons with proven integrity and | | |
| | 3 | relevant experience. | | |
| | 4 | (4) A member of the board other than ex-officio members shall hold | | |
| | 5 | office for a term of four years and may be reappointed for one further term of | | |
| | 6 | four years and no more. | | |
| | 7 | (5)The supplementary provisions contained in the schedule to this | | |
| | 8 | Act shall have effect with respect to the tenure of office of the board members | | |
| | 9 | and to the proceedings of the Centre. | | |
| Removal from office | 10 | 3(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2 of this Act, a | | |
| onice | 11 | member may at any time be removed from office by the President: | | |
| | 12 | (a) for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether | | |
| | 13 | arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause); | | |
| | 14 | (b) if he is found guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties; | | |
| | 15 | (c) he becomes of unsound mind; or | | |
| | 16 | (d) he becomes bankrupt. | | |
| | 17 | (2) A member of the Board may resign his appointment by a notice in | | |
| | 18 | writing under his hand, addressed to the President and the member shall, on | | |
| | 19 | receipt of the notice by the President, cease to be a member. | | |
| Allowances | 20 | 4. Members of the Board shall be paid such allowances as the | | |
| | 21 | Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission may from time to | | |
| | 22 | time fix. | | |
| | 23 | P ART II - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE CENTRE | | |
| Functions and powers | 24 | 5. The Centre shall have the responsibility for: | | |
| powers | 25 | (a) the establishment of artisan training centre in each Senatorial | | |
| | 26 | District; | | |
| | 27 | (b) managing and disbursing Centres for the acquisition, | | |
| | 28 | development, upgrading and promotion of the skills and expertise of persons | | |
| | 29 | who are either unemployed or are preparing to join the workforce either for | | |
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| 1 | themselves or others and for poverty alleviation, as well as employment |
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| 2 | generation; |
| 3 | (c) collecting all monies accruing to the Centre and ensuring that |
| 4 | such monies are paid into the account of the Centre; |
| 5 | (d) the provision of financial assistance by grants, loans or |
| 6 | otherwise for the purposes of the above mentioned objects; |
| 7 | (d) receiving requests and approving projects after due |
| 8 | consideration; |
| 9 | (e) ensuring disbursement to the relevant agencies and or |
| 10 | programmes saddled with the responsibility for Artisans Development, |
| 11 | Poverty Alleviation, as well as employment generation; |
| 12 | (f) monitoring and evaluating the execution of the projects of the |
| 13 | agencies and or programmes saddled with the responsibility for Artisans |
| 14 | Development, Poverty Alleviation, as well as employment generation, |
| 15 | Centreed with the Trust Centre; |
| 16 | (g) investing Centres in appropriate and safe securities; |
| 17 | (h) updating the Federal Government on its activities and progress |
| 18 | through annual audited reports; |
| 19 | (i) receiving progress reports and suggest improvement within the |
| 20 | provisions of this Act; and |
| 21 | (3) such other things as are necessary or incidental to the objects of |
| 22 | the Centre under this Act. |
| 23 | 6(1) The Centre shall have power to do anything, which in its |
| 24 | opinion is calculated to facilitate the carrying on of its activities and in |
| 25 | particular may: |
| 26 | (a) acquire, hold, manage and dispose of any movable and |
| 27 | immovable property; |
| 28 | (b) Purchase and acquire any asset, business or property |
| 29 | considered necessary for the performance of its functions; |
| 30 | (c) train managerial, technical or other category of staff for the |
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| C 2558 | | Artisans Development Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2016 2010 |
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| | 1 | purpose of running the affairs of the Centre; and |
| | 2 | (2) The powers conferred on the Centre may be exercised by it or |
| | 3 | through any of its employees or agents authorized to so act. |
| | 4 | (3) Subject to this Act, the Minister of Minister charged with matters |
| | 5 | relating to Labour and Productivity (in this Act referred to as "the Minister") |
| | 6 | may give to the Centre directives of a general nature or specific directions |
| | 7 | relating generally to a particular matter with regard to the carrying out of the |
| | 8 | functions of the Centre, and it shall be the duty of the Centre to comply with |
| | 9 | such directives. |
| | 10 | Part III - Staff |
| Appointment of | 11 | 7(1) There shall be appointed by the President, subject to the |
| Executive Secretary of the Centre | 12 | confirmation of the Senate, an Executive Secretary for the Centre who shall |
| Contro | 13 | have appropriate qualifications to carry out the functions of the office. |
| | 14 | (2) The Executive Secretary shall be the Chief Executive and |
| | 15 | Accounting Officer of the Centre and shall be responsible for executing the |
| | 16 | policy of the Centre and the daily administration of the Centre. |
| Tenure of Executive | 17 | 8(1) The Executive Secretary shall be appointed for a term of four |
| Secretary | 18 | years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further term of four |
| | 19 | years and no more. |
| | 20 | (2) The Executive Secretary shall be paid such remunerations as may |
| | 21 | be specified in his letter of appointment. |
| Pension Reform | 22 | 9(1) Service in the Centre shall be approved service for the purposes |
| Act, 2004 | 23 | of the Pensions Reform Act 2004. |
| | 24 | (2) Officers and employees of the Centre shall be entitled to pensions, |
| | 25 | gratuities and other retirement benefits as are prescribed in the Pension Reform |
| | 26 | Act 2004, so however that nothing in this Act shall prevent the appointment of a |
| | 27 | person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuities |
| | 28 | and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the Pensions Reform Act. |
| | 29 | PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISION |
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Centres 30 **10.** There shall be paid and credited to the Centre:

| 2016 | Artisans Development Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2016 | C 2559 |
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| 1 | (a) not less than 0.3 % of the total annual budget; | |
| 2 | (b) 0.5 % appropriation from tax accruing to the Federal | |
| 3 | Government from Petroleum Pump Price; | |
| 4 | (c) Loans and grants in aid from national, bilateral and multilateral | |
| 5 | agencies; | |
| 6 | (d) Rents, proceeds from services rendered 'by the Centre and other | |
| 7 | internally generated revenues; and | |
| 8 | (e) all other sums accruing to the Centre, from time to time. | |
| 9 | 11(1) The Centre may accept gifts of land, money or other | Power to acce |
| 10 | property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be prescribed by the | gift |
| 11 | person or organization making the gift. | |
| 12 | (2) The Centre shall not accept any gifts if the conditions attached | |
| 13 | are inconsistent with the objectives of the Centre. | |
| 14 | 12. The Centre may subject to the Land Use Act, acquire any land | Power to acqu |
| 15 | for the purpose of discharging its functions. | land, Cap. 20 LFN |
| 16 | 13. The Centre shall prepare and submit to the National Assembly | Annual Estim |
| 17 | through the Minister not later than 30th September of each year, an estimate | |
| 18 | of its expenditure and income during the next succeeding year. | |
| 19 | 14. The Centre shall: | Accounts |
| 20 | (a) cause to be kept proper accounts and records of the transactions | |
| 21 | of the Centre; | |
| 22 | (b) maintain effective control over its assets and liabilities incurred | |
| 23 | in the discharge of its functions; and | |
| 24 | (c) prepare in respect of each financial year a statement of account | |
| 25 | in such form as the Auditor-General may direct. | |
| 26 | 15. -(1) The Centre shall cause the accounts to be audited not later | Audit |
| 27 | than six months after the end of each year by the Auditor-General of the | |
| 28 | Federation. | |
| 29 | (2) The Auditor-General or any officer authorized by him is | |
| 30 | entitled at all reasonable times to full and free access to all accounts, records, | |
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| | 1 | documents and paper of the Centre relating directly or indirectly to the receipt |
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| | 2 | or payment of money by the Centre or to the acquisition, receipt, custody or |
| | 3 | disposal of assets by the Centre. |
| Annual Reports | 4 | 16. The Centre shall submit to the President through the Minister not |
| | 5 | later than 30th June of each financial year, a report of its activities during the |
| | 6 | proceeding year and it shall include in such report a copy of the audited |
| | 7 | accounts of the Centre for that year and a copy of the Auditor's report on it. |
| | 8 | PART V - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS |
| Limitation of | 9 | 17(1) The provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall |
| suits against the Centre Cap. 378 LFN | 10 | apply in respect of any suit instituted against any officer or employee of the |
| | 11 | Centre. |
| | 12 | (2) No suit shall be instituted against any member of the Board, the |
| | 13 | Executive Secretary, officer or employee of the Centre before the expiration of |
| | 14 | a period of one month after written notice of intention to commence the suit |
| | 15 | shall have been served upon the Centre by the intending plaintiff or his agent. |
| | 16 | (3) The notice referred to in subsection (2) of this section, shall state |
| | 17 | the cause of action, the particulars of claim, the name and place of abode of the |
| | 18 | intending plaintiff and the relief sought by him. |
| Service of Documents | 19 | 18. A notice, summons or other documents required or authorized to |
| Documents | 20 | be served upon the Centre under the provisions of this Act, or any other law or |
| | 21 | enactment may be served by delivering it to the Executive Secretary at the |
| | 22 | principal office of the Centre. |
| Restriction on execution against | 23 | 19. -(1) In any action or suit, no execution or attachment of process |
| property of the Centre | 24 | shall be issued against the Centre without the consent of the Attorney General |
| | 25 | of the Federation. |
| | 26 | (2) Any sum of money which may by judgment of any court be |
| | 27 | awarded against the Centre shall, subject to any direction given by the court |
| | 28 | where notice of appeal of the said judgment has been given, be paid from the |
| | 29 | general reserve of the Centre. |
| Indemnity | 30 | 20. A member of the Board, the Executive Secretary, any officer or |

| C 2561 | Artisans Development Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2016 | 2016 |
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| | employee of the Centre shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Centre | 1 |
| | against any proceeding whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is | 2 |
| | given in his favour or in which he is acquired, if any such proceedings is | 3 |
| | brought against him in his capacity as a member of the Board, the Executive | 4 |
| | Secretary, officer or employees of the Centre. | 5 |
| Other Staff | 21. The Centre may with the approval of the Management Board | 6 |
| | engage the service of persons with knowledge or experience in matters | 7 |
| | relevant to the functions of the Centre to assist otherwise than on the basis of | 8 |
| | full time employment. | 9 |
| Regulations | 22. The Centre may, with the approval of the Minister, make | 10 |
| | regulations for the purpose of carrying out or giving full effect to the | 11 |
| | provisions of this Act. | 12 |
| Interpretation | 23. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires: | 13 |
| | "Minister" means the Minister charged with matters relating to Labour and | 14 |
| | Productivity; | 15 |
| | "President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. | 16 |
| | 24. This Bill may be cited as the Artisans Development Centre | 17 |
| Citation | (Establishment) Bill, 2016. | 18 |
| | Schedule | 19 |
| | Section 2 (5) | 20 |
| | SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT BOARD | 21 |
| | Proceedings of the Management Board | 22 |
| Cap. 192 LFN | 1(1) Subject to this Act and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, | 23 |
| | the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceeding or those of | 24 |
| | any of its Committees. | 25 |
| | (2) The quorum of the Board shall be five members and the quorum | 26 |
| | of any Committee of the Board of shall be determined by the Board. | 27 |
| | 2(1) The Board shall meet not less than four times in each year | 28 |
| | and subject thereto, the Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the | 29 |
| | Chairman; and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by | 30 |

| 1 | not less than three other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to |
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| 2 | be held within fourteen days from the day date on which the notice is given. |
| 2 | (2) at any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but if he is |
| 4 | absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members |
| 5 | to preside at that meeting. |
| 6 | (3) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a |
| 7 | particular matter, the Board may co-opt such a person for a such a period as it |
| | |
| 8 | thinks fit; but a person who is attendance by virtue of this subparagraph shall |
| 9 | not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a |
| 10 | quorum. |
| 11 | 3(1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out, on |
| 12 | behalf of the Board, such of its functions as the Board may determine. |
| 13 | (2) A Committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such |
| 14 | number of persons (not necessarily members of the Board) as may be |
| 15 | determined by the Board and shall not hold office on the Committee in |
| 16 | accordance with the terms of his appointment. |
| 17 | (3) A decision of a Committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it |
| 18 | is confirmed by the Board. |
| 19 | Miscellaneous |
| 20 | 4(1) The fixing of the seal of the Centre shall be authenticated by the |
| 21 | signature of the Chairman, the Executive Secretary, or of any other person |
| 22 | authorized generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board. |
| 23 | (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person |
| 24 | not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made |
| 25 | or executed on behalf of the Centre by the Chairman, Executive Secretary, or |
| 26 | any person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the |
| 27 | Board. |
| 28 | (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under |
| 29 | the seal of the Centre, shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until |
| 30 | the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed. |
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| 1 | 5. The validity of any proceeding of the Board or of a Committee |
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| 2 | thereof shall not be adversely affected by any vacancy in the membership of |
| 3 | the Board or Committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of |
| 4 | the Board, or of a Committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so |
| 5 | took art in the proceedings of the Board or Committee. |
| | EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM |
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This Bill seeks to establish a Artisans Development Centre to provide adequate centreing for the acquisition and development of skills for unemployed persons in Nigeria.

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